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NEWS

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Five Midshipmen awarded Captain Winifred Q. Collins Scholarship

PENSACOLA, Fla.—Five female Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) midshipmen were recently named 1999 recipients of the Captain Winifred Q. Collins Award. Each midshipman will receive a \$1000 scholarship.

The recipients are Midshipman Leslie A. Davis, NROTC Unit, University of Notre Dame; Midshipman Conshombia D. Tate, NROTC Unit, Savannah State University; Midshipman Brenna Sibhoan Kelly, NROTC Unit, Virginia Military Institute; Midshipman Julie L. Welter, NROTC Unit, Miami University; and Midshipman Bethany N. Wiskow, NROTC Unit, University of Idaho.

The annual “Winifred Q. Collins Award” is presented to third year female midshipmen who will complete their junior year in the May/ June time frame. Nominees were selected on the basis of academics, leadership, and financial need. An awards board convened by the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET), the command that oversees the 57 NROTC Units nationwide, selected the winners. Collins personally notifies winning midshipmen of their selection. In a letter to each of the scholarship recipients, Collins wrote: “This designates you as one of the finest midshipmen in the NROTC program.”

Capt. Collins, U.S. Navy retired, was commissioned in 1942 in the first group of women officers to enter the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1948, she was selected as one of 500 women officers

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to be commissioned in the regular Navy. In August 1957, she became the Assistant Chief of Navy Personnel for Women- the senior woman officer in the Navy at the time, and the only woman line officer serving in the rank of Captain. Collins retired in August 1962 after 20 years of active Naval service.

The following is information on each of the five recipients:

Midshipman Leslie A. Davis is a Biochemistry major at the University of Notre Dame with a cumulative GPA of 3.656. She is ranked 5 out of 41 in her class, and has qualified for the Dean's Honor list all five of her semesters at the University. She is President of the Notre Dame Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society, and is a student advisor to the University's Biochemistry/Chemistry Undergraduate Studies Committee. Midshipman Davis is a member of the Unit's basketball team, Vice President of the Trident Naval Society, and has been a staff member for Notre Dame's joint service ROTC retreat. She has also volunteered her time to help the homeless, as well as the boys/girls club of the local community.

Midshipman Conshombia D. Tate is a Biology major at Savannah State University with a cumulative GPA of 3.63. She is ranked first in her class in both academics and Midshipman training. Midshipman Tate is president of the Junior class, and a member of the pre-med club. She has been the recipient of two quarterly awards for outstanding leadership in the Midshipman Company, an outstanding Physical Fitness Award, and a Volunteer of the Year Award. Midshipman Tate also volunteers her free time as a teacher and tutor for the Upward Bound program.

Midshipman Brenna Sibhoan Kelly is a Biology major at the Virginia Military Institute, with a cumulative GPA of 2.933. She is ranked in the top half of both her training unit, and her academic class. She is an active member of the Trident Society, the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership (VWIL) Color Guard, and the Officer's Christian Fellowship. Midshipman Kelly

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also works as a Computer Science Teaching Assistant.

Midshipman Julie Welter is a Psychology major at Miami University. She has a cumulative GPA of 3.59, and is ranked 2 out of 20 in both her training unit and her academic class. Midshipman Welter provides peer tutoring to her classmates, and volunteers her free time in the community as a member of Habitat for Humanity. In the Midshipman Battallion she has served as Public Affairs Officer, has volunteered as a leader in the University's NROTC Freshman Orientation Program, and has represented the Miami NROTC program at the nationwide symposium on NROTC student leadership.

Midshipman Bethany N. Wiskow is a Construction Management major at the University of Idaho. She has a cumulative GPA of 3.26, and is ranked 3 out of 30 in her training unit. Midshipman Wiskow went through Recruit Training, Naval Aircrewman Candidate School, and Naval Rescue Swimmer School. Since joining the University of Idaho NROTC Unit she has served as Company Senior Chief, and also received a letter of recognition from the CO of the USS South Carolina (CGN 37) for her performance during midshipman summer cruise.

For further information, contact the Chief of Naval Education and Training Public Affairs office at (850) 452-4858.